

Biographies of
James King &
Joseph R. Anderson



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In the paragraph below, High Tract should be Irish Tract and Robert Doag, Robert Paag.

viceable to that people, if the Lord shall please to call him thereto, and if other difficulties in the way be surmounted, the Presbytery look on him as a very fit person for the great undertaking. Mr. Thompson made a number of visits to the Valley of the Shenandoah, and to the Presbyterian Congregations east of the Ridge; and finally took his residence for some years in Prince Edward, near or with his son-in-law, Mr. Sankey, minister of Buffalo. The same year, 1739, Mr. John Craig, a licentiate, was sent by the Presbytery to visit "Opecquon, the High Tract, and other societies of our persuasion in Virginia, at his discretion." The next spring from different congregations there came up "supplications, wherein they request that Presbytery, by reason of great distance, please to form a call to Mr. Craig, and affix the names to the call of the subscribers to said supplications." The Presbytery called on Mr. Craig for information and his wishes in respect to these supplications. Mr. Craig expressed himself in favor of the "call from the inhabitants at Shenandoah and the South river;" the Presbytery directed Mr. Sankey to prepare a call. On the 17th of June, Mr. Craig declared his acceptance; and in September, 1740, passed his trials for ordination. "Robert Doag and Daniel Dennison from Virginia, declared in the name of the congregation of Shenandoah, their adherence to the call formerly presented to Mr. Craig"—the next day was appointed as "a day of solemn fasting and prayer, to be observed by all parties concerned, in order to implore the divine blessing and concurrence in the great undertaking." Mr. Sankey preached from Jeremiah 3. 15, "I will give you pastors after mine own heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding;" and Mr. Craig was set apart for the work of the gospel ministry in the south part of Beverly's Manor."

Mr. Craig was the first Presbyterian minister regularly settled in the Colony of Virginia. In his old age, he prepared for his descendants a manuscript volume containing the important facts of his life, interspersed with reflections, prayers, and meditations. It is entitled—

A preacher preaching to himself from a long text of no less than sixty years: On review of past life.

"I was born August 17th, 1709, in the parish of Dunagor, County Antrim, Ireland, of pious parents, the child of their old age, tenderly loved, but in prudent government, and by early instructions in the principles of religion as I was capable of receiving them, which had strong effects on my young and tender mind, (being then about five or six years of age,) and engaged me to fly to God with prayers and tears in secret, for pardon, peace, guidance and direction, while in the world, and to fit me for death; and what appears strange to me now, the just thoughts and expressions that were given to me, and the strict care of my conduct; lest in my

childish folly, I should sin against God; and the correct desire I had to know more of God and my duty to him, made me diligent, and the task easy, to learn to read the word of God, which then and ever since gave me great delight and pleasure: and though I endeavored to conceal my little religious exercises and acts of devotion, my affectionate and tender parents discovered my conduct, and turn of mind, and thirst after knowledge, which raised in them pleasing hopes, and engaged them contrary to their former designs, to bestow upon me a liberal education." About the age of fourteen or fifteen, he made profession of religion, being admitted, after examination, to the Lord's table, by Rev. Alexander Brown, who baptized him. While at school he was careful to avoid those companions that might lead him into the imitation of their vicious ways. He was at first shocked by the depravity he saw around:—this he says—"made me pray more earnestly that God would keep me from falling in with those views. As for my conduct and diligence for the space of eight or nine years at school, I never received one stroke, or so much as a sharp rebuke from all the masters I was with: but still gained the favor of them all." He then spent some years in reading Algebra, and the Mathematics generally, Logic, Metaphysics, Pneumatics and Ethics—and also Geography and History, ecclesiastical and profane: and then he repaired to Scotland, and in the college at Edinburgh, attained to the degree of A. M. Anno Domini, 1732. His observations in college, and the opening prospects in worldly matters, embarrassed him greatly in his choice of a profession. After much perplexity he resolved to attend the physicians' hall. A long and dangerous illness that came upon him was accompanied with the sufferings of an accusing conscience. After a confinement of about six months, unexpectedly to himself and others he recovered. He had wept and prayed, and humbled himself before God. "Patrimony and estate had then little weight in my mind, being well convinced that God who saved my life from death would support it, while he had any service for it. So I cast myself upon his care, and earnestly prayed for his direction." He was now pretty much settled in his convictions that he ought to engage in the ministry of the gospel:

"America was then much in my mind accompanied with the argument—that service would be most pleasing and acceptable, where most needful and wanting—which raised in me a strong desire to see that part of the world. I consulted my parents and friends, who did not much hinder my designs. I earnestly cried to God for his directions, that he would restrain or encourage me, as he saw it would be to his glory and my happiness. At that time I had a dream or vision, representing to me as it were in miniature, the whole that has happened to me of any importance these thirty-five years; yea, the very place I have been settled in these thirty years. I know it at first sight, and I have done here what was represented to me then. I thought little of it then, though often of it since."

CHAPTER LXVIII

Pioneers of the Upper Valley

In the tracings given of many pioneers, the writer confined his notices to such as properly belonged to the Lower Valley, known as Frederick County. He will now briefly mention the names of pioneers who settled in the Shenandoah Valley chiefly South of the line between the **Augusta** and **Frederick Counties**, whose deeds were recorded in **Orange County** between the years **1738 and 1744**. This class of pioneers purchased large tracts from what has been called the **Dev-erly Grant**, which was issued 12th of August, 1736, to **William Beyerly** of **Essex County**, **Sir John Randolph** of **City of Williamsburg**, **Knight**, **Richard Randolph** of **Henrico County**, and **John Robinson** of **King and Queen**, "for 118,491 acres, being in **Orange** beyond the mountains." This grant extended from the **Augusta** line Southward towards the head springs of the **Shenandoah River**. Prior to this settlement, there is no doubt but that the historic **Lewis** family had seated themselves in the lower section near what is generally known as **Port Republic**. **Thomas Lewis**, the pioneer, and several sons were there about 1733. He obtained his grant for a large tract of land. His sons, **Andrew**, **William** and **Charles** were settled near by. This family have their historic names associated with events mentioned in this volume. The pioneers who had deeds, represent a large class of the **English**, **Scotch** and **Irish** immigrations, who were not willing to contend with the **Fairfax** and **Hite** prospective litigations, on their arrival in the **Lower Valley**, pressed further South beyond the **Fairfax** line, and began to settle all over the **Valley** South of a line from **Swift Run Gap** beyond the mountains North of **Harrisonburg**. Among this class a few names will be recognized as **Germans**, **Hollanders**, etc. **John Lewis**, **William Cathey**, **Samuel Givens**, **George Hutchinson**, **Thomas Black**, **James Caldwell**, **George**

Robinson, **James Davis**, **Daniel Mahahan**, **Patrick Campbell**, **Thomas Henderson**, **John Wilson**, **Wm. Smith**, **John Trimmell**, **John Anderson**, **Samuel Guy**, **John** and **Samuel Davison**, **James McClure**, **Andrew** and **Fra McClure**, **Joseph Teas**, **Martha Mitchell**, **George Home**, **John Moffett**, **John R.** and **Wm. Weyntics**, **John Mills**, **James Deeper**, **Robert Turk**, **William Sedgwood**, **James Carr**, **Findley McClure**, **Robert King**, **Alexander** and **John Breckenridge**, **Samuel Hughes**, **Thomas Kirkpatrick**, **James Fulton**, **Sarah Ramsey**, **Wm. Johnston**, **Robert Page**, **Pat Martin**, **John Seabright**, **Wm. Wright**, **David Edmiston**, **John Hart**, **James Risk**, **Pat Cook**, **Robert Campbell**, **M. Patterson**, **James Robinson**, **Moses Thompson**, **Wm. Vance**, **Joseph Reid**, **George Caldwell**, **Robert McDonald**, **D. Byre**, **Geo. Anderson**, **Robert Patterson**, **John Pickens**, **Robert Crockett**, **James Lesley**, **David Campbell**, **Robert McClenehan**, **John McCutchen**, **James Patton**, **Wm. Hutchison**, **Robert Young**, **Pat Hays**, **Samuel Doag**, **Frederick Beatty**, **Abraham Hambreton**, **J. McUllock**, **Robt. Black**, **Andrew Russell**, **Wm. Skillian**, **Geo.** and **Robt. Breckenridge**, **Jacob Lockhart**, **John Craig**, **Robert Cunningham**, **A. Campbell**, **Wm. Thompson**, **Henry Ruffner**, **Jordan Grays**, **Bare**, **Madison**, **Weyer**, **Harrison**, **Linville**, **Crawford**, **Roller**, **Gratton**, **Hanger** and many more of this class settled in **Augusta** about the time the first court was held in **December, 1745**, and have their records in that court.

Rev. John Craig, a **Presb. Minister**, was preaching at a meeting house in **1740**, (now **Tinkling Spring Church**). About this time came the **Prestons**, **Waddells**, **Allens**, and **Browns**. Later on, the **McCues** and **Stuarts**; while down towards the old county line were the **Harnsborough**, **Sprinkle**, **Steinberger**, **Rude**, and other families.

JAMES KING.

A BIOGRAPHY.

The senior James King was born in London, England, in 1752 and came to America when a young man. He was a civil engineer. He settled first in Montgomery county, Virginia, but afterwards removed to Sullivan County, making it his permanent home. Here he became associated with Thomas Goodson in land transactions, in 1778, and married his daughter Sarah.

His military service began in 1778 when he joined Gen. Andrew Lewis in the Dunmore War. It was but a step from this to the Revolution. Among the episodes of his military career was an experience with Gen. Daniel Morgan. With others he was hotly pursued by a body of cavalry and so closely were they followed that they were forced to take refuge in Dismal Swamp. All were captured except King. One man was left to guard the swamp, but after waiting for some time and despairing of finding his man the guard mounted and left. King at once went in pursuit; overtook him and captured his horse, a fine riding animal, which he proudly conducted back to camp.

A superior officer coveted the animal and would have it despite protests, but King, rather than give it up, resigned and went home. He relented, however, for having been so rash as to permit a horse to stand between him and his desire for liberty, returned to the army and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

While a man of many peculiarities he was always humane. In consequence of his fair dealings with the Indians he exerted a great influence over them and Gov. Blount sought his services in treaties where diplomacy played an important part. He took part in the famous treaty of the Holston.

He was commander of the fort at Knoxville from 1792 to 1795, and was associated with its founder, Gen. James White, in laying off the town.

A military life of seven years made King a rover. He owned four homes and whenever the notion struck him, would move his family without giving any notice. He gave orders one time to move to Knoxville with the weeks washing in the tub, at the boiling point.

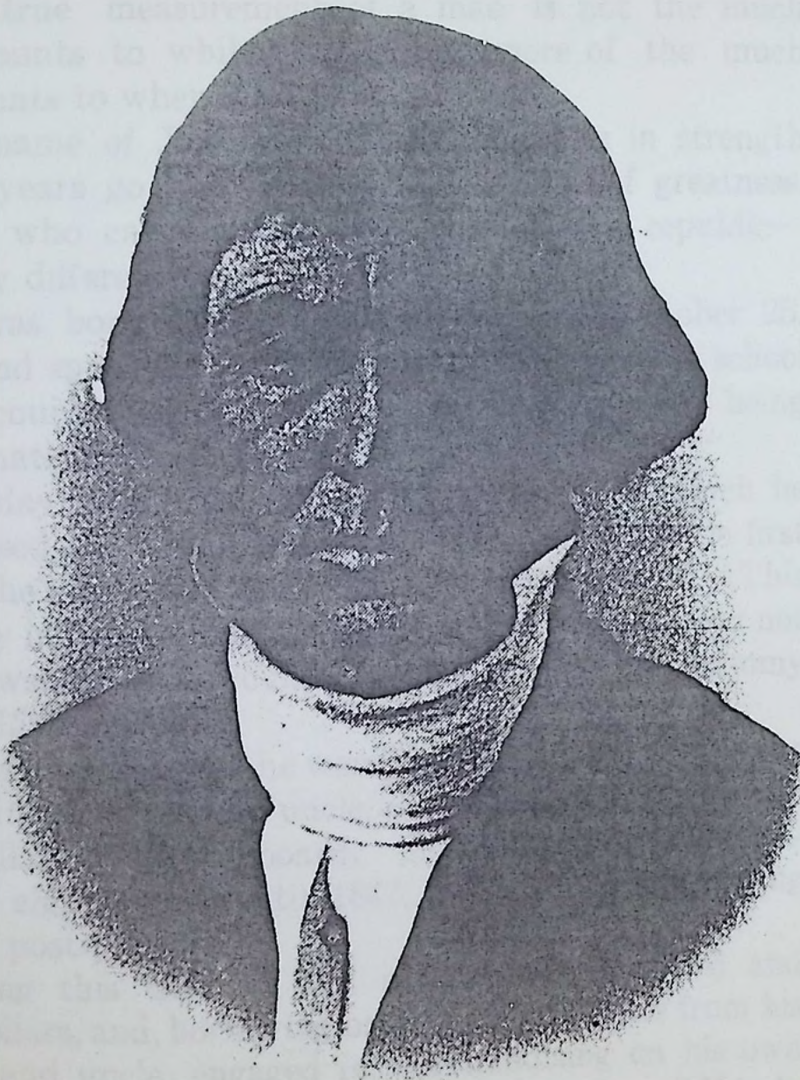
He died August 17th, 1825, at the age of seventy-three. The only inscription on his tomb, which is a coffin shaped slab of iron, is—"A patriot of 1776." This is to distinguish him from those who became patriots after the war was over, when the cause was more popular.

James King, Jr., the son, was born near Bristol, about 1790, and inherited a vast estate. He founded King College in 1866, and gave it to the Presbyterian church, one stipulation being that ministers and Confederate soldiers were to receive free tuition. He had sent a number of young men North to be educated, but their return with abolition views caused him to erect the college. He also founded and was the first pastor of the first Presbyterian church erected in Bristol.

There was a time in his life when he took great interest in hunting, but on one of his rambles in the "chestnut flats," southwest of Bristol, he killed a deer and was so moved by its pitiful human-like death moans that he never hunted animals again,¹ and always made it convenient to be away from home at hog killing time.

The name King is so closely associated with the educational and industrial developments that it has been preserved more indelibly in connection with public institutions and localities than any other name in the county.

James King, Jr., died July 13, 1867, and is buried in Bristol.



JAMES KING

JOSEPH R. ANDERSON.

A BIOGRAPHY.

The true measurement of a man is not the much he amounts to while living, but more of the much he amounts to when dead.

The name of Joseph R. Anderson grows in strength as the years go by. He had the elements of greatness. A man who can found a city can found a republic—the only difference—opportunity.

He was born in Scott county, Virginia, October 25, 1819, and spent his youth on a farm. He went to school at the country log schoolhouse—his favorite study being mathematics.

One day he sold a bushel of Irish potatoes, which he had raised, for fifty cents. This fifty cents was the first money he ever made and he kept it for three years. This act may indicate a miserly nature, but a miser he was not as his wealth was accumulated more through economy than selfish hoarding.

In his fifteenth year he went to Blountville and became a clerk in the store of his uncle, Samuel Rhea, who paid him fifty dollars a year and board. He remained in this capacity for eight years, until 1842, part of the time being deputy post-master.

During this time he had saved seven hundred and fifty dollars, and, borrowing one thousand dollars from his father and uncle, engaged in merchandising on his own account at Eden's Ridge. Here he remained until March, 1844, paid back the five hundred dollars to his uncle and offered to return to his father the five hundred dollars he had borrowed from him, but his father would not take the money. Thirty years later he paid the note with interest and the money was divided among the heirs.

In March, 1844, he bought a half interest in his uncle's store and remained at Blountville until 1853.

He married Malinda King, daughter of Rev. James King, June 3, 1845. In September, 1853 he removed to Bristol and began selling goods in a brick store on the corner of Fourth and State streets. This store he conducted until 1860, when he also went into the banking business.

The Civil War interfered with his plans and disjointed his business, but after the war he resumed both the mercantile and banking business. Later he disposed of his store to his son, John C. Anderson and his nephew, A. B. Carr and devoted himself to the banking business exclusively.

Joseph R. Anderson was not a great banker nor was he a great financier. His methods lacked policy. He did not live in a day when captains of industry were co-evil with existing contradictions. A man who deposited his money in the old Anderson bank deposited his morals with it. In all sincerity the banker reached out with a fatherly concern to his depositors. One day a patron of his bank went to the cashier and told him he wished to draw out some money—several hundred dollars. Seeing him there and knowing that he was dealing in futures, Anderson told him he could not have the money.

"Do you mean to tell me that I can't draw out my own money?"

"That's what I mean," said the banker, "you can't have it—you are gambling in futures."

The man threatened the banker, but the banker stood firm, until finally convinced that, although he would be doing the depositor a great service in refusing, he had no legal right to do so.

It is not for the money Anderson accumulated that he will be remembered. His fortune was small

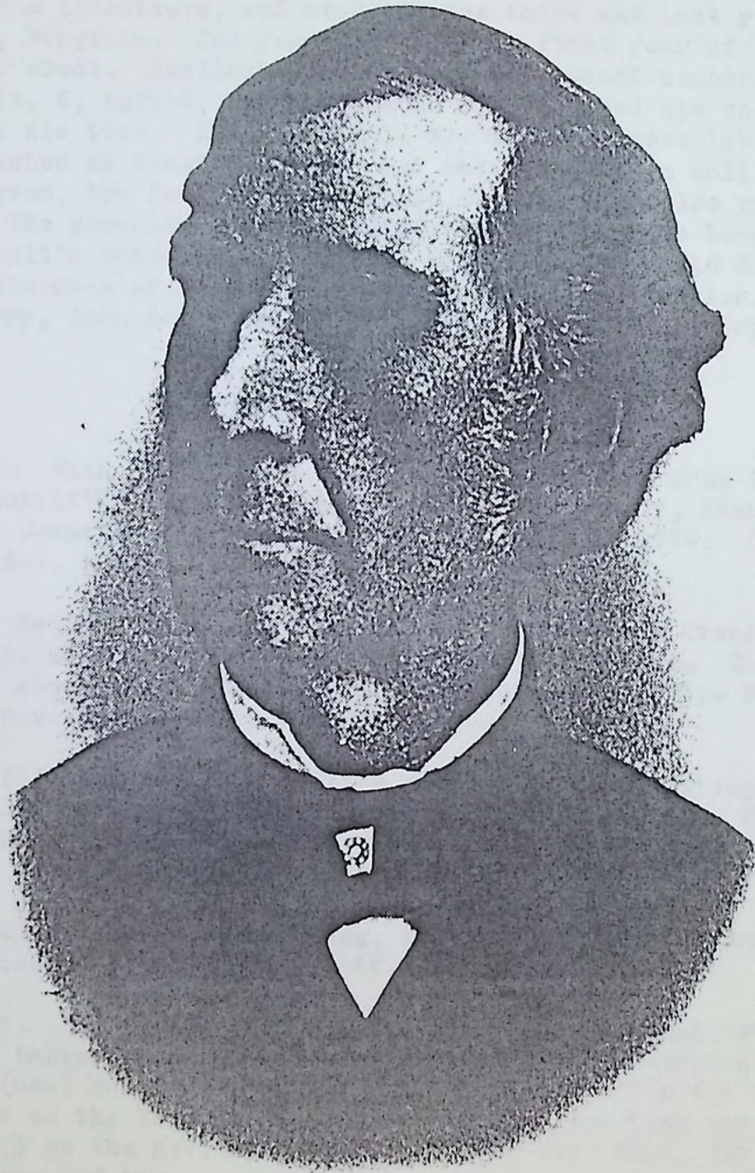
beside some that have been made by others since his time. And besides wealth is not worth.

It was for his moral strength—his high standard of excellent, irreproachable, clean, every-day life. He was clean of person and clean of character. He was a healthy man and he had a healthy, wholesome religion.

Early he espoused the cause of temperance and he never wavered. He believed that the preventive was better than the cure—that the best one could do with the man in the gutter was to reclaim him, and so he organized the Band of Hope—took little boys by the hand and led them away from temptation. It is significant of his foresight that a member of one of his boy bands led the forces in the temperance fight in Bristol in 1907.

He was nominated for governor by the Prohibition party in 1888, but the news never reached him until too late—he was dying and his family never told him.

When posterity sums up the work of the toilers who have struggled through the years, sometimes with little hope to cheer them; when they carry their riband wreaths to adorn the deserving, there will be a steady pilgrimage to his tomb.



JOSEPH R. ANDERSON

To the ministry of the Presbyterian Church the "congregation" of New Bethel has furnished the following: The Rev. Francis Allison McCorkin; so long the well known and beloved minister of Greenville, Samuel Hodge, son of Francis Hodge, 3rd, and great grandson of one of the original Ruling Elders. R. F. King, grandson of William King, Ruling Elder, and great grandson of John King, an Elder; also Mr. J. Bruce Hodge, son of Joseph Hodge and wife, Margaret Rhea, another descendant of one of the founders of the church, and of one its first Ruling Elders. Mr/ J. B. Hodge is a licentiate, and studying the third and last year at Union Seminary, Virginia. The year 1882 was the first year of Rev. B. Converse as pastor elect. Resident members were 98, absent members 22. 16, Baptisms, adult, 5, infant, 2. The pastor elect served his church only one-fourth of his time. His assistant, Mr. W. M. Doggett labored three months, preached at least six times and was diligent in calling. The Rev. J. C. Carson, the Rev. J. R. King and others, have also preached during the year. The preaching places besides the church have been King's School House, Devault's Schoolhouse, Shell's Chappell, Haw Ridge School House, and the residences of Messrs. J. Mason Hodge, David Frazier, Joseph Hodge, William Berry, John Berry, Jacob Latture, and Mrs. Mary Shapp, deceased.

The Ruling Elders

Francis Hodge, 1st. With his wife, Maria Sproat, emigrated from Ireland county Antrim, about 1772. Settled first in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, afterwards in York County, Emigrated to (now) Tennessee in 1779. Ordained as an Elder by Rev. Samuel Doak and died, 1822.

James Gregg, 1st. Said to be a Scotchman, lived in the Piney Creek congregation, Maryland, of which the Rev. Joseph Rhea was pastor. Emigrated to (now) Tennessee, about 1779. Was the first schoolmaster of the Forks. Ordained Elder by Rev. Samuel Doak, and died, 18--.

John Allison 1st. (?) Supposed to have been one of the first Ruling Elders Ordained By. Rev. Samuel Doak. Said to be the nephew of the Rev. Francis Allison, D. D. of Philadelphia, Lived in the Piney Creek congregation of Rev. Joseph Rhea. Emigrated to (now) Tennessee in 1779, and died 18--.

James Gregg, Jr., 2nd. Son of James Gregg, 1st. Ordained about 1824 by Rev. S. A. Morrison (?) Died April, 1866. Aged about 65 years.

John King, Sr., 1st. Son of Edward King, Sr. 1st. Scotch-Irish descent, who emigrated from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna river, to Holston, (now) Washington County, Virginia, and after two years settled in the Fork on the Watauga River about 1782. John King was ordained about 1824 (?) by the Rev. A. S. Morrison (?) Died Sept. 18th, 1837, in the 79th year of his age.

Samuel Hodge. Son of Francis Hodge, 2d. Grandson of Francis Hodge, 1st. ordained about 1824 (?) by Rev. A. S. Morrison (?) Died in Knox county Tennessee, March 1st, 1855, aged nearly 52 years.

Adam White. Of Scotch-Irish descent. Son of John White of Washington County, and son in law of John King, above. Ordained by Rev. Daniel Rogan in 1839, and died August 10th, 1876, aged nearly 87 years.

William King, son of John King, above. Ordained by Rev. Daniel Rogan in 1839. Died April 28th, 1866, aged nearly 68 years.

Joseph S. Rhea. Grandson of the Rev. Joseph S. Rhea, Received as an Elder from the Blountville church, and installed at New Bethel by the Rev. Daniel Rogan in 1839. Removed to Jonesborough in 1853.

David Woods. Ordained by Rev. Phillip Woods in 1841, and died January 23d, 1872, in the 64th year of his age.

Robert Hughes. Son of David Hughes, who was of Scotch-Irish descent and emigrated from North Carolina to now Carter county, thence to now Sullivan and supposed to be one of the original members of the church. Robert Hughes was ordained by Rev. Phillip Woods in 1841, and died June 24th, 1852, in the 61st year of his age.

Samuel D. Hughes. Son of Robert Hughes, above. Ordained by Rev. John B. Logan, June 21st, 1854.

William P. Rhea, Grandson of Rev. Joseph Rhea, cousin of Joseph S. Rhea, above, and received as an Elder from the Elizabethton church.. Installed by the Rev. Daniel Rogan in 1846, and died December 5th, 1861, in the 58th year of his age.

John W. Seehorn, M. D. Son of Esquire Seehorn, a Ruling Elder in the Providence church. Ordained by Rev. John B. Logan, June 21st, 1854. Removed to Mexia, Texas.

John Berry. Grandson of Thomas King. Great grandson of Edward King. Ordained by Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 1865.

John Presdon Hodge. Son of Francis Hodge, 3rd. Nephew of Samuel Hodge, above. Ordained by Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 1865. Removed to New Providence, Hawkins county, in 1879.

Robert Chester Hodge. Son of Josiah Hodge, and nephew of Samuel Hodge, above. Ordained by Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 1868. Removed to Eakersville, North Carolina, in 1870.

William R. Geisler. Of German ancestry. Emigrated from Pennsylvania, and belonged to the Lutheran church, the "Dutch Church" of the Fork. Ordained by Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 1868.

Jacob Latture. Son of Samuel Latture, bearing a French name but of German affinity. Ordained by the Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 1870.

John Calvin Hodge. Son of Joseph Hodge, and nephew of Samuel Hodge, above. Ordained by the Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 1870, and dismissed to the Northern Methodist church August 8th, 1880. Ardadia, Tenn.

Edward W. King. Son of William King, 2d. Grandson of William King, 1st., above. Ordained in 1876 by the Rev. John R. King. Removed to Bristol in 1879.

Robert F. Gross. Son of Alfred Gross, and grandson of David Woods, above, and great grandson of Jacob Gross, 1st, supposed to be one of the original members of the church. Ordained in 1882 by the Rev. James B. Converse.

Church Minutes, New Bethel Church, Sullivan County.

The Deacons.

James M. King. Son of William King, above. Ordained by the Rev. J. B. Logan in 185---.

Henry Hughes. Son of Robert Hughes, above. Ordained by the Rev. J. B. Logan in 185--, and died August 28th, 1874, in the 43d year of his age.

Edwar R. King. Son of Isaac King and grandson of John King, above. Orsaiend by the Rev. J. P. Briscoe in 186--.

Alfred Gross. Grandson of Jacob Gross, Sr., 1st, supposed to be one of the original members of New Bethel. Ordained by the Rev. James B. Converse in 1882.

Taken from an Historical Sermon by the Rev. Samuel Hodge, D. D.

Rev. Samuel Hodge. Born June 7, 1829. Son of Francis and Priscilla King Hodge. A member of New Bethel church. Educated at Princeton, N. J. President of Washington College. Pastor of Salem Church. Married Ann Elizabeth Bozell, daughter of Dr. Bovell, Sept. 20th, 1854. Four children were born to this union, all dying in infancy. President of _____ College for many years at Hopington, Iowa. He was called from this college in 1882 to New Bethel to preach the historical sermon at the Centennial. His second marriage was to Susan Allen; to this union, one daughter, Elizabeth Doak, a gifted musician. Last work at Lake Forest, Illinois. Owned a home there where he spent his last days. He and his wife are buried there.

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee."
(Text of sermon).

Mrs. Bessie Bradshaw, copiest. December 10th, 1936.

Source from # 0464147

Sullivan Co. Ia.

per Church Records